



# Invasive Species

*A Views of the National Parks Knowledge Center*



Preserving and protecting the special places in our country is the main mission of the National Park Service (NPS). Invasive species, both plants and animals, threaten that mission due to their ability to alter habitats by disrupting the native organisms and processes.

The Natural Resource Information Division (NRID) and the Biological Resource Management Division (BRMD) have teamed up to create a knowledge center on invasive species. This knowledge center explores the questions of what is an invasive species, what are the different ways they negatively impact national parks, and how national parks are dealing with invasive plants and animals.

This knowledge center was designed by members of BRMD to include an overview of invasive species, impacts of invasive species, stories of invasion, management actions, prevention, partnerships, and restoration efforts. The goal is to provide a basic idea of invasive species problems and then focus on the efforts underway in many of our national parks to deal with this issue.

## Features

Here are the major parts of the Invasive Species Knowledge Center:

- Overview of invasive species  
Information on what are invasive species, when (and how) they impact an area, where they originated, how many exist, and why it is important to care about them.
- A multitude of impacts of invasives  
An overview of many different economic-, ecologic-, and health-orientated reasons why it is important to deal with invasive species.
- Stories of invasion  
Case studies involving different invasive species that impact the health of the ecosystems found within the national park system.
- Management actions  
Information on the various ways resource managers deal with invasive species, as well as the broader issues which affect their management decisions.
- Partnerships dealing with invasives  
Partnerships are key to successful prevention, control, and/or eradication of invasive species. This section highlights the partnerships at some of our national parks.

**Invasive species can be both plants and animals. Feral goats in Hawaii can disrupt native ecosystems by stripped vast tracts of land of any vegetation.**

---

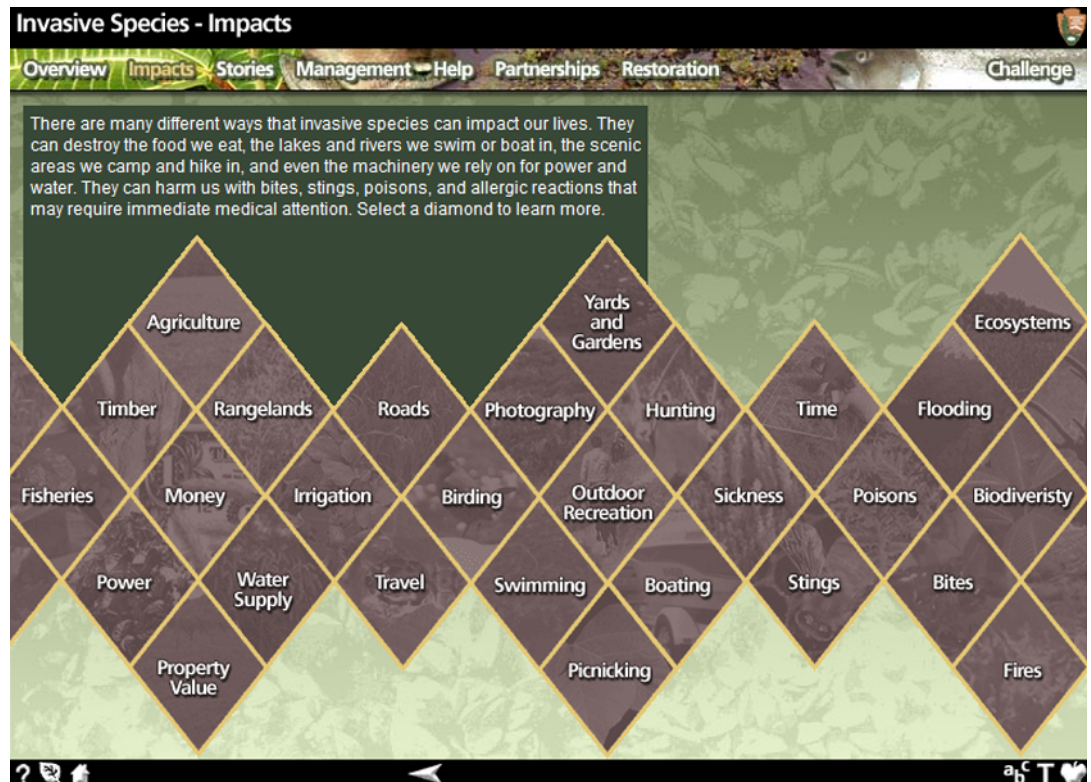
*“The invasion of exotic species is one of the most serious threats that parks face today and if exotics are not actively and aggressively managed, the National Park System is at risk of losing a significant portion of its biological resources.”*

— NPS web site on exotic species  
[www.nature.nps.gov/wv/exotics.htm](http://www.nature.nps.gov/wv/exotics.htm)

---

Visit *Views of the National Parks* online at:  
[www2.nature.nps.gov/synthesis/views](http://www2.nature.nps.gov/synthesis/views)

On this page of the knowledge center a user can explore the different ways invasives species can make an impact. These impacts affect economics, recreation, and ecology.



*“Exotic Plant Management Teams, are modeled after the coordinated rapid response approach used in wild-land fire fighting because this approach is also effective in controlling exotic plants. Each team employs the expertise of local citizens and the capabilities of local agencies.”*

— Invasive Species  
Knowledge Center

#### • Restoration efforts

The goal of managing invasive species is to return the ecosystem back to the natural state that existed before invasion. Learn about the various techniques available to achieve this goal.

There are Web links throughout the knowledge center that link to areas of expertise when additional information is desired.

#### Uses

Teachers can educate students about invasive species and introduce students to the national park system by using this knowledge center. Parks can use it as a primer on invasive species before training staff on specific local invasive species. The public can use this knowledge center to learn why invasive species are important, how they can impact everyday life, and how everyone can help control invasive species.

#### Teaching Standards

##### Standard C – Life Science

Students learn how natural ecosystems and the interdependence of organisms are affected by invasive species.

##### Standard E – Science and Technology

Students use an interactive computer program to access information on invasive species.

##### Standard F – Science in Personal and Social

##### Perspectives

Students learn about the hazards of invasive species in every day life, actual stories of inva-

sive species, and how they can be a part of the solution.

#### Partners

The invasive species knowledge center was developed with the help from many people and organizations. NRID and BRMD express special thanks to:

- NPS Exotic Plant Management Teams
- Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
- James Madison University
- Haleakala National Park
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park

#### Contact us

Biological Resource Management Division  
Linda Drees - Branch Chief, Invasive Species  
linda\_drees@nps.gov  
(970) 225 - 3595

#### Views Project

Bruce Nash - Project Manager  
bruce\_nash@nps.gov  
(303) 987 - 6697  
Erika Matteo - Project Lead  
erika\_matteo@nps.gov  
(303) 969 - 2684  
Dave Krueger - Project Lead  
david\_krueger@nps.gov  
(303) 969 - 2033

Visit Biological Resource  
Management Division online:

[www.nature.nps.gov/biology](http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology)